Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUXEMB 00873 231159Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
TO USICA WASHDC
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C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0873

E.O. 11652: GDS
SUBJECT: IVP VISIT OF MS. LYDIE SCHMIT, APRIL 2-22, 1978

REF: (A) 77 LUXEMBOURG 0605, (B) 77 LUXEMBOURG 0712, (C) LUXEMBOURG 0200

1. THE REPORT PREPARED BY MR. LAUREN HALE ON MS. LYDIE SCHMIT'S IVP VISIT AND MY DISCUSSIONS WITH MS. SCHMIT INDICATE THAT THERE WERE SEVERAL PROBLEMS IN MS. SCHMIT'S OTHERWISE SUCCESSFUL VISIT. THESE INCLUDE: (A) INDICATION ON MS. SCHMIT'S DATA SHEET THAT SHE WAS QUOTE HEAD OF THE OPPOSITION END QUOTE. REF A INDICATED THAT MS. SCHMIT EXERCISES CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE ON SOCIALIST PARTY POLICY AND SPECULATED THAT IF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT COALITION REMAINS IN POWER MS. SCHMIT COULD WELL BE GIVEN A MINISTERIAL PORTFOLIO. MOREOVER, ALL POLITICAL REPORTING FROM LUXEMBOURG SINCE 1974 HAS CLEARLY IDENTIFIED THE SOCIALIST PARTY AS THE MAJORITY PARTY IN THE GOVERNING COALITION. WE CAN ONLY ASSUME THAT WHOEVER PREPARED THE BIOGRAPHIC DATA SHEET ON MS. SCHMIT FAILED TO DO EVEN THE MINIMUM RESEARCH ON HER ROLE IN LUXEMBOURG POLITICS.

(B) INABILITY TO ARRANGE VISIT TO A STEEL MILL. REF A DATED AUG. 2, 1977, REF B DATED SEPTEMBER 14, 1977 AND
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PAGE 02 LUXEMB 00873 231159Z

REF C DATED FEB. 17, 1978 ALL EMPHASIZED MS. SCHMIT'S INTEREST IN VISITING A STEEL MILL. IN FACT, REF C, WHICH WAS SENT SIX WEEKS PRIOR TO HER DEPARTURE FROM LUXEMBOURG AND WHICH GAVE HER FINAL DATES FOR THE VISIT, STATES IN PART QUOTE SHE PARTICULARLY WANTS TO VISIT A STEEL MILL IN PITTSBURGH END QUOTE. WITH SIX WEEKS LEAD TIME I FIND IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND, AND IMPOSSIBLE TO EXPLAIN TO

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

MS. SCHMIT, WHY US STEEL DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH ADVANCE NOTICE
TO ARRANGE A TOUR.

(C) INSUFFICIENT NUMBER OF APPOINTMENTS WITH RANK AND
FILE UNION MEMBERS. ALL EMBASSY REPORTING INDICATED THAT
MS. SCHMIT IS KEENLY INTERESTED IN THE US LABOR MOVEMENT.

2. IN SPITE OF THESE SNAGS, MS. SCHMIT APPEARS TO BE
REASONABLY SATISFIED WITH HER VISIT. I ONLY RAISE THE
PROBLEMS BECAUSE I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT HER VISIT COULD HAVE
BEEN EVEN MORE PRODUCTIVE HAD MORE CARE BEEN TAKEN IN AR-
RANGING HER PROGRAM. THE FAULT IS PERHAPS PARTLY THE
EMBASSY'S IN NOT PROVIDING ENOUGH DETALED INFORMATION
ON MS. SCHMIT'S BACKGROUND AND INTERESTS. IN THE PAST,
HOWEVER, THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR ARRANGING IVP VISITS FOR
LUXEMBOURG HAVE INDICATED THAT TRAVEL AND APPOINTMENT SCHEDULES
CAN ONLY BE WORKED OUT IN WASHINGTON AND THAT ANY ATTEMPT BY THE POST
TO GET INTO DETAILED PLANNING IS NOT HELPFUL. WE HAVE ALSO
ASSUMED THAT BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN WASHING-
TON -- FOR EXAMPLE THE BIO REPORT OF OCTOBER 16, 1974
ON MS. SCHMIT -- WOULD BE DRAWN ON BY THOSE RESPONSIBLE
FOR ARRANGING THE PROGRAM AND NEED NOT, THEREFORE, BE RE-
PEATED IN DETAIL IN THE NOMINATING AND FOLLOW UP TELEGRAMS
FROM POST.

3. I CONSIDER IVP GRANTS THE MOST IMPORTANT AND FRUITFUL
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PAGE 03 LUXEMB 00873 231159Z

PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAM AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY. LUXEMBOURG
GRANTEES UP TO NOW HAVE BEEN ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THEIR PRO-
GRAMS AND HAVE HAD THE HIGHEST PRAISE FOR THE ORGANIZATION
OF THEIR VISITS AND FOR THE PEOPLE WITH WHOM THEY HAVE COME
IN CONTACT. THE PROBLEMS WITH MS. SCHMIT'S VISIT WERE
RELATIVELY MINOR BUT, NEVERTHELESS, DETRACTED FROM AN OTHER-
WISE SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM. I WOULD APPRECIATE ICA'S VIEWS
AND COMMENTS ON ANYTHING THE EMBASSY MIGHT DO TO ASSURE THAT
SUCH PROBLEMS ARE AVOIDED IN THE FUTURE.LOWENSTEIN

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